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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Sixty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND PART (PUBLIC)* OF THE 1784th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 18 October 1999, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. MEDINA QUIROGA

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* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CCPR/C/SR.1784.

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The public part of the meeting was called to order at 5.45 p.m.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS (item 4 of the agenda) (continued)

1. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Committee needed to approve the French and Spanish versions of the Consolidated Guidelines for State Reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR/C/66/GUI).

2. The French and Spanish texts were adopted, subject to an addition and to a drafting amendment in the Spanish version.

3. The CHAIRPERSON said that, if there was no objection, the new guidelines could be notified to States parties with a view to their coming into force on 31 December 1999.

4. It was so decided.

5. Lord COLVILLE, recalling that at its fifty-seventh session the Committee had decided to consider possible changes to its working methods, said that he had produced a number of written suggestions, which Committee members could examine if they wished, for streamlining and expediting the adoption of the concluding observations.

6. Ms. EVATT said that more discipline was certainly required. For example, members of the Committee who wished to propose changes during the adoption of the concluding observations should do so in writing. For that, the original document should be circulated sufficiently in advance.

7. Mr. KRETZMER thanked Lord Colville for his suggestions and endorsed Ms. Evatt's remarks, but felt there was another problem that needed to be examined, namely the drafting of the concluding observations, which was often far from consistent, as each country rapporteur formulated them in a different way.

8. Mr. AMOR found Lord Colville's suggestions useful, but did not feel that they necessarily called for detailed discussion. In his view, some room should be left for spontaneity; the style of the observations could not be the same for one State as for another. He was therefore against the introduction of too many rules.

9. The CHAIRPERSON thought there was no need to prepare an exhaustive document on the matter. The Committee should instead consider shortening the time allotted to the adoption of the concluding observations.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.